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Security Information

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21 October 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: []

SUBJECT: Ollenhauer Meeting, 23 October 1952

Felix Buber
coord.

Felix Buber / JPD

1. During your scheduled meeting on 23 October, Herr Ollenhauer may bring up the activities and sponsorship of organizations other than the BDJ, Kampfgruppe and Free Jurists. There are a few projects, which seem to be particularly ripe for broaching at this time by Herr Ollenhauer:

- a. Gemeinschaft Demokratischer Sozialisten (GDS)
(Community of Democratic Socialists) LCBALSA/S
- b. Befreiungskomitee fuer die Opfer Totalitaerer Willkur
(Committee for the Liberation of Victims of Totalitarian Terror) LCBALSA/C
in addition to the publication AKTION (monthly periodical)
- c. Stosstrupp gegen Bolschevistische Zersezung
(Shock Troop Against Bolshevism) LCBALSA/B
- d. Volkbund fuer Freiheit and Frieden (VFF)
(Peoples' Association for Peace and Freedom) KMRADISH
- e. Bund der Verfolgten des Nazi Regimes (BWN)
(League of Victims of Nazi Persecution) LCSTART

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2. The following position is proposed regarding these operations:

a. Gemeinschaft Demokratischer Sozialisten (GDS): Ollenhauer's singling out of this group on his DGE convention speech was noted. Since we had indeed supported the group we were concerned about the statements made. The entire operation had sincerely been designed to counter what appeared definitely to be a Communist-manipulated organization, Socialistische Demokratischer Aktion (SDA). There was never any intention to disparage true Social Democrats or legitimate organs of the Social Democratic Party. Its target was Communism and Communists. It sought to protect well-meaning persons from Communist machinations. We had actually decided, however, to discontinue this activity at the end of September. This decision was based on a feeling that a good part of its mission had been accomplished and for other more or less administrative reasons.

b. Befreiungskomitee fuer die Opfer Totalitaerer Willkur: We have heard that there is SPD opposition to this group. This is a matter of general interest to us since we have always been under the impression that the main energies of the Committee and that the bulk of AKTION's content were devoted to attacking Soviet Communism and specifically to highlighting the fate of individual victims. We know by reputation, however, that Buber-Neumann is a most active and sometimes unpredictable person and things may be happening about which we have no knowledge. Therefore, we should like to have the details

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of SPD concern over the organization so that we may study and investigate the matter. (I do not believe that we should acknowledge U.S. support at this time if the circumstances of the meeting will permit. Obviously, if the subject is broached and conclusive proof demonstrated, it may be tactically impossible to refrain from admission. The ideal move would be neither to affirm nor deny U.S. financial support.)

c. Stosstrupp gegen Bolschewistische Zersezung: The Stosstrupp was receiving assistance from us for similar purposes as those stated in connection with the GDS. It has been our conviction that many pacifist/neutralist circles had been infiltrated by Communists and were being exploited by them. The SPD while not in agreement with the Federal Republic or the other Western Governments on the issue of contractals and EDC, was not in sympathy with German elements adopting a totally unrealistic position on Germany's role in Europe and Cold War. Once again, these elements were targets not the SPD. Nevertheless, we do intend to stop our support of Herr Doerr also. The reasons are quite simple and should be of interest to Ollenhauer in that there is a slight comparison possible with the para-military group now in the news. We learned that Doerr was creating an apparatus on the side - totally unknown to, unauthorized, and unsupported by us for purposes not yet fully disclosed. This group Known as finances the Deutsche Heimatschutz, seems to have attracted the attention of the BFV. We have no reason to believe that the Deutsche Heimatschutz was indulging in illegal or dangerous activities, but we could not tolerate this type of extracurricular activity which could easily redound to our disadvantage at any time.

d. Volkbund fuer Freiheit and Frieden (VFF): This groups seems to be a reasonable, effective organization which is understood to enjoy the support of the Federal Republic. We also contributed to its support for very limited purposes, especially its excellent stand against illegal trade with the Soviet bloc. In this regard we have considered ourselves to be in de facto cooperation with responsible German authority even though the matter has not been discussed heretofore. If the SPD has specific, serious and constructive criticism of the VFF we should be glad to hear it and to use our small influence to increase its effectiveness in its avowed defense of "peace" and "freedom".

e. Bund der Verfolgten des Nazi Regimes (BVN); now called Bund fuer Freiheit und Recht (League for Freedom and Right): I would not advocate admitting U.S. sponsorship at this meeting although there is a possibility that the subject will be broached. It may come up because a) the SPD has made official condemnations of the BVN and has attempted to prevent membership by SPD members; and b) there have been indications of late that high officials of the BVN have talked too freely about the American support available to the group. For your own information, many SPD'ers do belong to the BVN (BFR) and several participated actively in the July Congress at Duesseldorf. It is likely that SPD opposition stems primarily from its opposition to a mass organization speaking, as does the SPD, for war-time non-collaborators and opponents to Fascism, and which supports major government policy lines. We feel that LCSTART is one project which we might try to turn over to the Fed Rep which, as long as the CDU remains in power, might be sympathetic. The Catholic influence is strong in the BVN and Adenauer has himself been affiliated. For this reason, it seems best not to discuss it at this time with Ollenhauer.